

Swale Independent Remuneration Panel

Members' Allowances – Questionnaire 2016

It will greatly assist the Independent Remuneration Panel undertaking the review of Members' Allowances to have your views on the subject.

Please return your completed questionnaire to Jo Millard **no later than Friday 26 August 2016**. Use a separate piece of paper if necessary.

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|---|----------------------|
| Please print your name: | |
| What roles do you currently hold in the Borough of Swale? | 1. 2. 3. 4. |

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|---|-------------|
| 1. In a typical week how many hours do you spend on council business relevant to your role as a front-line councillor? <div style="text-align: right;">_____ hours</div> | |
| Please indicate how this time will be spent: a) Attending meetings (including travelling) | _____ hours |
| b) Community/Parish representation | _____ hours |
| c) Case work (dealing with particular issues in your ward) | _____ hours |
| d) Research | _____ hours |
| 2. In a typical week, how many hours do you spend on council business relevant to the role(s) that you hold in addition to front-line councillor? Please provide details separately for each role if more than one additional role is held. | |

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|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Role 1 _____ hours | Role 2 _____ hours | Role 3 _____ hours | Role 4 _____ hours | | |
| Please indicate how this time is spent and give separate answers for each additional role held: | Role 1 | Role 2 | Role 3 | Role 4 | |
| | a) Attending meetings (including travelling) | ___ hours | ___ hours | ___ hours | ___ hours |
| | b) Community representation | ___ hours | ___ hours | ___ hours | ___ hours |
| | c) Case work (dealing with particular issues relevant to the role) | ___ hours | ___ hours | ___ hours | ___ hours |
| | d) Research | ___ hours | ___ hours | ___ hours | ___ hours |
| 3. Do you incur any significant costs which you believe are not covered by your present allowance? | YES / NO If YES , please provide details | | | | |
| 4. Government guidance states that “it is important that some element of the work of Members continues to be voluntary”. As part of their deliberations, Independent Remuneration Panels will assess what Public Service Discount should apply to the basic allowance. That is the percentage of their time Councillors expect to give without any financial remuneration. | | | | | |
| What do you feel is an acceptable amount of time to be given, unremunerated – expressed as a percentage? | _____ % | | | | |
| 5. The present level of Basic Allowance payable to all Councillors is £4,880.53. Do you think this is appropriate? | YES / NO | | | | |
| If NO , should it be higher or lower? | HIGHER / LOWER | | | | |

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|--|--|
| Please give a reason for your answer. | |
| If you are able, please indicate an appropriate level | £ _____ |
| <p>6. Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) are currently paid as follows: (To assist the panel to produce a more consistent group of allowances, please can you score each role/position in respect of importance and impact. 1 to 18. 1= most important.)</p> | |
| Leader of the Council | £18,545.42 |
| Cabinet Members | £11,127.25 |
| Minority Leader of the largest minority party | £ 9,272.71 |
| Minority Leader of the smaller minority party | £ 1,854.54 |
| Scrutiny Chairman | £ 5,099.48 |
| Policy Development & Review Committee Chairman | £ 5,099.48 |
| Planning Committee Chairman | £ 6,490.90 |
| Audit Committee Chairman | £1,854.54 |
| Mayor | £3,358.78 |
| Deputy Mayor | £1,344.54 |
| Would you like to see any changes made to these allowances? | <p>YES/NO If YES, please provide details</p> |
| Would you like to see any new Specialist Responsibility Allowances introduced? | <p>YES/NO If YES, please provide details</p> |
| <p>7. Travel and Subsistence</p> <p>The current travel scheme is shown below. and the subsistence is attached.</p> | <p>YES / NO</p> |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Do you have any comments on the current scheme for Members? | | If YES , please provide detail: | |
| From 2016-17 | Not exceeding 999 cc | 1000cc – 1199cc | Above 1200cc |
| Cars and vans | 42.9p | 46.9p | 58.7p |
| Motorcycles | 42.9p | 46.9p | 58.7p |
| Bicycles | 42.9p | 46.9p | 58.7p |

If you have any other comments on Members' Allowances, please detail below:

Thank you for your time. Please return the completed questionnaire to Jo Millard, Senior Democratic Services Officer no later than **Friday 26 August 2016**.

jomillard@swale.gov.uk